

## CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF BUILDINGS IN ITALY AND SICILY.

In tracing the dates of buildings solely from the records of the most accurate historians, many and great difficulties are presented to the careful inquirer.

We find, to take an instance, in Severano's "Rome," that S. Giovanni Laterano was built by Constantine, restored "almost from foundations" in 772-95, after an earthquake; added to by Leo IV. 847-55; repaired in 1183, 1276, 1290, and 1300, besides being embellished at various other times. Now this, at first sight, seems tolerably exact, as giving the chief part of present building the date of c. 772. But how are we to say how much, if any, of its predecessor still remains? How far its plan and arrangement were followed, what precise parts were added, and how much escaped intact during the after repairs and alterations? We know too well that restorations often mean with us. The works in 772 might have been executed quite unlike their originals, as the rebuilding of Canterbury by the Williams, or of St. Paul's by Wren,—or after their model, as so many of the late restorations in England. The additions and repairs might have been done as they were by Jones to St. Paul's, by Wykeham to Winchester. The building might have been restored and spoils as Wren spilt Westminster, and some ignorant person the nave of St. Saviour's.

Yet, to shed upon us a ray of hope, we are told that in one particular instance (and from the care with which the fact is noted we fear an exception), viz., S. Clemente, Rome, the chief part was actually rebuilt in the likeness of its predecessor from the very ground.

Thus it is seen that the church historian must fall back for assistance on the architect, and that a critical examination of the works themselves is necessary before any good judgment can be formed as to the changes they have undergone. A personal examination is the more necessary, as very few Italian writers furnish any accurate details of mouldings ornaments, or construction. Very many excellent works are, indeed, to be met with among them, which enter, with great research, into the various documents and histories connected with the buildings, so as to arrive at as accurate a knowledge as can be obtained, by that means only, of their eras. Such are Fabri's "Ravenna," Rossi's and Severano's "Rome," Richa's "Florence," &c. But very few have brought architectural knowledge to their assistance, sought information on doubtful points from the buildings themselves, or given details such as might have allowed others to work on. Except Cicognara, the Duke di Serradifalco, and D'Agincourt, I am not aware of any Italian work giving such information; and even there it is meagre. In fact, I know of no work of the sort in Italy itself that gives any thing like the real information drawn from the buildings themselves that is supplied by Professor Willis in his work, intended merely as a sketch, of the Italian mediæval architecture.

It was trusting too much to written authority, and too little to the clear evidence of the edifices themselves, that led that enthusiastic writer and brilliant theorist, Hope, to assign to the tenth and eleventh centuries the use of the pointed arch, by reference to its introduction at S. Ambrogio, S. Ciriaco, and S. Giovanni Laterano, when a careful examination would have shewn it due to the additions in the fourteenth.

The following gives an abstract of the dates of building, restoring, &c., the principal edifices in Italy and Sicily, together with the authorities for the same:—

**Nostra Baptistery.**—330 (D'Agincourt). Converted from an antique temple.

**S. Costanza, Rome.**—331 (D'Agincourt) "Oxford Glossary," and Nardini, who supposes it to have been built as a baptistry to S. Agnese. Hope believes it to have remained almost unaltered. Nothing certain known of its date, except that, in 1256, it was dedicated to S. Costanza (Vasi).

**S. Giovenale Laterano Baptistery.**—334 (Severano); 330 (Vasi); the columns under cupola added 1475; 440 (H. G. Knight); 462 and 639, the chapels added (Severano); but restored almost from foundations, 1600 (Vasi); 1153 (Knight). Baptistery much altered and walls raised. Constantine was baptised at Rome (Gibbon); 330 (Vasi). He says the second row of columns under

cupols was added 1480. The chapel of S. Venanzio added, 640; S. Rufina, 1253; that of S. Ilario restored, and the fourth rebuilt from foundations, c. 1600.

[All these baptistries seem to have been built in the same way. The builders got some old columns, on which they put as many old capitals as they could find, without much regard to fitness. A large base made amends for a small capital. Where enough old capitals were not to be found, new ones, in rude imitation, were made. The columns were then arranged in circles, arches turned from column to column, without mouldings or ornaments of any kind; a flat roof put over aisles, and a dome over the centre. Yet, rude as they are, these old baptistries, from their fine circular outline, have a vastly picturesque internal effect.]

**S. Maria Maggiore, Rome.**—432 (Severano). He says it was originally built 353; restored and enlarged, 442, as now (1675) seen, except some chapels; altered, and roof, &c., restored, 732; tribune rebuilt, 1295; porch, 1454—1575; present roof formed, c. 1500; chapel of S. Cosmo e Damiano, 498. [Altar to north-west. The general plan gives scarcely any idea of a cross. No mention is made of any atrium.] Rossi says porch was reconstructed, 1150; great repairs done to church in 1288 and 1430; it was rebuilt from foundation in 432, and enlarged. Vasi dates the campanile, c. 1275. Rycant and Severano give its date as 1376; Rycant says the porch, tower, and roof were constructed in later times than the rest. [This tower is clearly very late in date. The lower arches are pointed, and all the mouldings more elaborate than usual. Were it not for the ugly steeple, this would be, perhaps, the finest tower in Rome.]

**Duomo, Ravenna.**—380 to 398 (Fabri). consecrated 384; entirely rebuilt, 1734—45; supposed to have been built by S. Orso with remains of Temple of Jove.

[Apical end, two rows of columns on each side, forming aisles, going right up to end wall, without any triumphal arch or sign of the cross on plan. It has its old circular tower diminishing towards the top (much ruined), but seems of about the same date as the square Roman brick ones.]

**S. Silvestro and Martino, Rome.**—320 (Filippini). This is the date of oratory, which was built in the baths of Titus; 498 (Filippini), church restored, 780 and 844; c. 500 (Rossi), was rebuilt from foundations. The roof by S. Carlo Borromeo; 845 (Rycant), church rebuilt; 1200 (Mazzia), was restored by Marchione of Arezzo.

**S. Lorenzo Basilica, Rome.**—(Severano and Nardini), built by Constantine; 579 to 590, rebuilt from foundations. It had been altered and restored 435, 450, and afterwards 720 and 780 (Rossi and Severano).—Again from foundations, 1220; when porch was built with twenty-two columns. The work in 578-90 included rebuilding the church from foundations, the part then built being the present tribune end. In 780 the form was changed, aisles being added, and the entrances altered; and in 1220 the orientation was changed. 780, old nave formed into choir. New nave added, 1220 (Hope).—The cloisters are clearly of the same date as the Roman brick towers, the columns being precisely similar to those in the towers. Much of the ornamental work of choir is well done; but some of the pilasters, capitals, and scrollwork are badly executed. The lozic capitals of portico equal in freedom and beauty of carving, almost any existing.

**S. Giovanni Laterano, Rome.**—By Constantine. Rebuilt almost from foundations, 772. The ambulatory behind tribune, 850. Restored or repaired, 1130, 1183, 1276, 1290, 1305, &c.; 1140. Campanile; rebuilt 1560; 1500, principal arch of nave supported by two great columns (Severano); 1290, being ruined by heretics was restored (Rossi); 1308, being burnt was restored (Vasi); 750, tower and porch (Rycant).

**S. Giovanni e Paolo, Rome.**—398, nearly rebuilt, 770 (Rondinino); 398, originally built towards the east, the present tribune being in site of old facade (Rossi); the church is on the site of the Curia Hostilia (Nardini and Rossi); the tower c. 1200, Hope; 1570, porch rebuilt on grander scale (Rondinino). The tower is one of the peculiar brick ones, and a string course, similar to those of tower, is used as a cornice to the lozic columns of portico. It has an egg-shaped ornament, being the only instance of its use I recollect. Altar to west.

**S. Pietro in Vincoli, Rome.**—400, anciently the Basilica Eudoriana (H. G. Knight); 440, rebuilt, its original date being very ancient; restored, 355 (Vasi); eighth century restored (D'Agincourt and Willis); 442 (Bunsen); 1500, restored (Rossini). Altar to north-east.

**S. Clemente, Rome.**—c. 450: in eighth century rebuilt nearly on the old plan (H. G. Knight, Rondinino, and D'Agincourt); in 872 rebuilt nearly on the old plan (Bunsen); 1112, repaired (Rondinino); 1112, ambon added, and cathedra in 1123 (Crescimbeni). Altar to the west.

**S. Sabina, Rome.**—Fourth century; west front, 770 (Willis). Altar to south.

**S. Agnese Maggiore, Ravenna.**—400, on site of Temple of Hercules (Fabri).

**S. Ageta Maggiore, Ravenna.**—434 (Fabri); 400 (D'Agincourt).

**S. Andrea Maggiore, Ravenna.**—440: the pulpit 660. The church much ornamented 553, with Greek marble columns still there, 1664 (Fabri).

**S. Apollinare Nuovo, or Di Dandolo, Ravenna.**—Fifth century, by Theodoric, king of the Goths. The twenty-four marble columns brought from Constantinople (Fabri). It has a round tower, with openings almost exactly like the Roman ones, having also the flush archivolt, not very common in Ravenna. The old pulpit still remains on its five columnar supports. The capitals of columns all alike.

**S. Giovanni Evangelista, Ravenna.**—425: once adorned with most splendid marbles and mosaics. Built by Galla Placidia (Fabri). It has a square tower like the Roman brick ones. The capitals of columns inside church are all alike.

**S. Croce, Ravenna.**—449, by Galla Placidia (Fabri).

**S. Giovanni Battista, Ravenna.**—440, by Galla Placidia. The entrance was by a long portico of eighteen little columns. They were removed in 1631, and a new piazza formed (Fabri). Has clerestory of three arches on columns under one large arch (D'Agincourt).

**S. Nazario e Celso, Ravenna.**—440, by Galla Placidia (Fabri).

**S. Sabina, Rome.**—c. 430, restored 795 and 823 (Severano); 424, restored 795 and 1683 (Ciampini); c. 310 (Crescimbeni). Supposed from Temple of Juno Regina (Nardini); 425, rebuilt from foundations, and consecrated 435. Rebuilt in 824 and 1441, and much embellished and repaired in 1587 (Rossi); 425, 824, 1239 (Willis). Altar to north-east. Built c. 430 (Vasi).

**S. Crisogono, Rome.**—400, supposed, but date unknown. Restored in 741. Again from foundations in 1119 and 1124. Again restored 1624 (Severano); 730 (Bunsen); 741, roof, &c. restored, (Rycant). Supposed by Constantine. Restored 730 and 1500 (Vasi). The columns are from the baths of Severus. The plan like S. Paolo fuori. Altar to the west.

**S. Giovanni de Calene, Ravenna.**—438. It has a circular tower with openings like the Roman brick ones.

**S. Francesco, Ravenna.**—450: first dedicated to S. Pietro Maggiore (Fabri).—It has a square brick tower like the Roman.

**S. Stefano Rotondo, Rome.**—467: restored and dedicated, it having been an old temple; again restored 780; altered to present form 1450 (Rossi and Severano).—c. 475, and repaired 1450 (Vasi and Bunsen).—c. 1450, reduced to form now seen, it having, before that time, been larger, and with three rows of columns; what it originally was is not well proved (Nardini).—470: not an old temple (Hope).—The outer columns were not walled up in 1150 (Quarterly Review).—All the Ionic capitals are exquisitely carved, the outer row (blocked up in wall) especially.

**S. Bibiana, Rome.**—363, by Olimpia; restored 167, 1216, 1560 (Severano).—Built, 470 (Rossi).—Very ancient; rebuilt, 1216; restored, 1630 (Vasi). Altar to east.

**S. Agata, in Trastevere.**—714, 715 (Rossi and Severano).

**S. Agata in Suburra, or de' Geli, Rome.**—500 (Rycant).—Reconstructed 600; being ruinous, was restored and embellished in 17th century (Rossi).—714 (Severano).—Very ancient; restored, 600, having been profaned by the Goths (Vasi).—472 (Ciampini).

**Theodoric's Tomb, Ravenna.**—490: consecrated 1221 (Fabri).—Its use is disputed and date uncertain (D'Agincourt).—The workmanship is so very much better than that of contemporaneous buildings, that one almost suspects the correctness of the date, usually assigned to it.

**Theodoric's Palace, Ravenna.**—190 (Fabri).—Date very doubtful (Quarterly Review, 1845).—The general appearance of the facade gives the idea of its being of about the same date as the Roman brick towers.

**S. Pancrazio, Rome.**—360: rebuilt 500 (Rossi); 500; repaired 630; rebuilt 1630 (Rycant).—There was a small chapel here 272; enlarged, 360; in 510 as now seen; restored, 630 and 1609 (Vasi). 1249: the Ambone. Date sculptured on it: Ciampini).

**SS. Cosmo and Damiano, Rome.**—528 (Crescimbeni, Vasi, Rycant, Ciampini); 790—restored and rebuilt 1630 (Vasi); converted from temple of Remus and Romulus (Nardini); the bronze gates brought 780 from Perugia (Rossi).

**Paranzo.**—540 (Hope and D'Agincourt).—The plan is interesting, shewing the complete arrangement of the early churches.

**S. Maria Maggiore, Ravenna.**—541 (Fabri): circular tower with openings in it, like the Roman brick ones.

**S. Michele, Ravenna.**—545: the front and campanile afterwards added (Fabri).—545 (Ciampini).

**S. Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna.**—545: em-